



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

18 MAY 1972

The Honorable John C. Stennis
Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

My dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing to tell you of my very serious concern over certain provisions of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act of 1972 (S. 3526) which is now pending before the Senate. Section 504(a) of this legislation imposes a ten percent reduction, by 30 June 1973, in the total number of Executive Branch personnel (other than those of the State Department, certain military categories, and the Peace Corps) serving overseas.

After reviewing the implications of this provision, I have concluded that it would seriously impair the effectiveness of this Agency in carrying out certain programs having a vital bearing on the national security. As you are aware, this Agency has in recent years undergone significant reductions in both money and manpower. In fact, since 1967 there has been a reduction of some 20 percent in Agency overseas positions affected by this provision, with no reduction in our increasing responsibilities and commitments, many of which are in support of other Federal agencies.

In these circumstances, and in view of the present world situation bearing on U.S. national security, I urgently request your assistance in securing for this Agency an exemption from Section 504(a) of S. 3526.

Respectfully,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Richard Helms.

Richard Helms
Director

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Office of Legislative Counsel
Washington, D. C. 20505

Telephone: [REDACTED]

19 May 1972

TO: Mr. Ralph Malvik
Office of Management and Budget
Washington, D. C. 20503

Per our telephone conversation.
Also attached is an excerpt from the
Congressional Record covering the
Bellmon amendment, exempting the
Department of Agriculture, which
precipitated the request from the Senate
Armed Services Committee for the
18 May letter.

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